

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086035
ORIGIN PER-03

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DRAFTED BY PER/FCA:JABOYLE:MLB
APPROVED BY M/DG:AMB. LAISE
FCA/EUR:MR. EALUM
EUR/EX:MR.SULLIVAN, MR. TULL
M/MO:MISS BUCSKO
PER/FCA:MR. ACKERMAN
-----160550Z 105898 /14
R 160233Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AMBASSADOR LAISE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, AMGT

SUBJECT: CUTS IN POST STAFFING

REFERENCE: THE HAGUE 01733

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE ABOLITION OF THE
0-6 POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY HOLZMAN AND THE RETENTION OF
THE 0-7 POSITION AS THE ONLY COMMERCIAL POSITION OTHER THAN
THAT OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR. SEVERAL ELEMENTS WERE IN-
VOLVED IN THIS JUDGMENT. IN THIS ERA OF TIGHT BUDGETS
AND EQUALLY CLOSE SCRUTINY OVER POSITION LEVELS TO INSURE
THAT POSITIONS ARE RATED AT LEVELS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR
NORMAL DUTIES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO PRESERVE
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THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF JUNIOR LEVEL POSITIONS IN
EUROPEAN POSTS. FAILURE TO DO THIS WILL INHIBIT AN
ABILITY TO DEVELOP A CADRE OF FUTURE EUROPEAN SPECIALISTS.

2. THE HAGUE BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF ITS E/C SECTION, MORE
THAN AMSTERDAM OR ROTTERDAM, SEEMED BETTER ABLE TO ABSORB
SUCH A SLOT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWING THE CONCERNED

OFFICER REAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER EXPERIENCED FSOS. A
SECONDARY CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNING THE JUNIOR OFFICER

SLOT TO THE HAGUE RATHER THAN AMSTERDAM OR ROTTERDAM WAS
THAT THE BULK OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE
NETHERLANDS ARE CENTERED IN THE LATTER. THEIR DESIGNATION
AS COMMERCIAL INTEREST POSTS, THE APPOINTMENT OF CONSULS
GENERAL EACH OF WHOM HAS CONSIDERABLE COMMERCIAL EXPER-
IENCE AND THE 0-4 LEVEL COMMERCIAL POSITION AT EACH OF
THESE POSTS REFLECTS THIS.

3. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT, EVEN ASSUMING EUR'S AGREE-
MENT TO SEEK AN UPGRADING OF THE POSITION (FULL JUSTI-
FICATION FOR WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENTED AND
ACCEPTED BY PERSONNEL'S OFFICE OF POSITION AND PAY MANAGE-
MENT (PER/PPM), A CURRENT FREEZE OF POSITION RECLASSI-
FICATION IS IN EFFECT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF A CURRENT
POSITION CLASSIFICATION STUDY. THIS MEANS THAT IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE TO UPGRADE THE HAGUE'S 0-7 POSITION WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS. PERHAPS SOMETHING CAN BE DONE AFTER
THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION STUDY IS COMPLETED BUT I DON'T
WANT TO RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

4. I UNDERSTAND THAT FSO-7 BINDENAGEL IS JUST COMPLETING
A FIRST-CLASS COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE IN SEOUL. HE APPEARS
TO HAVE A GOOD DEAL OF DRIVE AND INTELLIGENCE AS WELL AS
A FAMILIARITY WITH COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS. IN SHORT HE HAS
ALL THE EARMARKS OF AN EXCELLENT COMMERCIAL OFFICER. I
THINK HIS ASSIGNMENT SHOULD STAND WHILE FURTHER EXAMIN-
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ATION IS GIVEN TO THE POSITION LEVEL. IF THE POSITION
SHOULD LATER BE RAISED TO THE 0-4 LEVEL THEN THE
BINDENAGEL ASSIGNMENT COULD BE SUCCEDED BY A MORE SENIOR
REPLACEMENT. IF THE POSITION REMAINS AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL
OR IS RAISED TO THE 0-6 OR 0-5 LEVEL, I SEE NO NEED TO
BREAK THE ASSIGNMENT OF THIS OFFICER. I WILL ASK EUR/EX
TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER AND DISCUSS IT DIRECTLY WITH
THE EMBASSY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
CHRISTOPHER

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